Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 27, through page 6, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 shows a typical network 1 incorporating a network management system for use in accordance with the present invention. The network 1 comprises managed switches 3 having identifiers A and B, unmanaged or unsupported switch 5 having identifier U, management station 7A, and endstations 7 having identifiers s, t, w, x, y and z, and media links 9, (only one of which is numerically referenced). The following description will refer to each network device with reference to its identifier which is typically its IP address, physical address or name.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

Network management station m incorporates the necessary hardware and software for network management. In particular, network management station m includes a processor, a memory and a disk drive as well as user interfaces such as a keyboard and mouse, and a visual display unit 11 (see Fig. 2). Network management application software in accordance with the present invention is loaded into the memory of management station m for processing data as described in detail below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the prior art technique, the management application builds the network topology by selecting a root node and building a tree from the root node. Consider the case where switch A is the root node. Since switch B is the only other device with topology information (Table 2), and port 1 of switch B is facing the root device, switch A, it is possible to make endstations s and t child nodes of ports 2~~1~~ and 3~~2~~ of switch B respectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

If step 60 determines that not all the children of the Current Port are endstations, that is, at least one of the child nodes of the Current Port ~~are of~~ is a connecting device or unknown type, then, in the preferred embodiment, the topology of the branch of the network connected to the Current Port is not inferred, since one or more of the child nodes could be a discovered, but unsupported, connecting device. In accordance with the preferred embodiment, as depicted in Figure 5, the program continues with step 80 by creating a new object, specifically a cloud object, and at step 90 connecting the Current Port to the new object, and continuing with step 100 by connecting the children of the Current Port to the cloud object and continues with step 110.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

In this case, the program continues with step 60 by considering whether all the children of the Current Port are known to be endstations. In particular, step 60 determines the type of each of the child nodes x, y and z.